



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
CREEKS RESTORATION/WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT  
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**August 13, 2008**

**DAVID GEBHARD PUBLIC MEETING ROOM, 630 GARDEN STREET**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Moldaver called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.

**ROLL CALL**

Committee members present: Michael Jordan, Lee Moldaver, Roger Schlueter, George Weber, Daniel Wilson

Committee members absent: Chair Hochman

Liaison members present: Park and Recreation Commissioner Beebe Longstreet

Liaison members absent: Councilmember Iya Falcone, Planning Commissioner John Jostes

Staff present: Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager Cameron Benson, Creeks Planner George Thomson, Creeks Program Assistant Liz Smith, City Planner Bettie Weiss

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion:

Committee members Schlueter/Jordan to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 16, 2008.

Vote:

Voice vote 3/0; Weber abstained.

**AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one wished to speak.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Benson reported that the Creeks Division's 2008 Report is available at the Creeks Division office, as well as online at [www.sbcreeks.com](http://www.sbcreeks.com).

**Mr. Wilson arrived at 5:35pm.**

Mr. Jordan asked when the Santa Barbara Beautiful Award would be presented for the Arroyo Burro Estuary and Mesa Creek Restoration Project, and offered his assistance in developing a list of community members and groups to invite.

Mr. Benson reported that the award ceremony will take place Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at the Granada Theatre.

Mr. Moldaver noted that the Ocean Protection Council will be hosting a podcast presentation by the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) regarding mitigating storm water runoff pollution throughout California. Details are available online at the California Resources Agency website at [www.resources.ca.gov/copc](http://www.resources.ca.gov/copc).

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **8a. “Plan Santa Barbara” General Plan Update**

#### Recommendation:

That the Committee receive a presentation on the July 2008 “Plan Santa Barbara Policy Options Report,” and provide the Park and Recreation Commission and Planning Commission with recommendations regarding creek and Ocean-related policy issues to be evaluated in the General Plan Update Environmental Impact Report.

#### Documents:

Staff Report – Staff Report 2008

#### Speakers:

Bettie Weiss, City Planner  
Cameron Benson, Creeks Manager

#### Committee Questions:

Committee members asked questions regarding the role of the Environmental Impact Review (EIR) in the General Plan Update process; and, how the Creeks Division’s Watershed Action Plans fit into the Plan Santa Barbara process.

Ms. Weiss reported that the EIR will analyze the impact of existing and suggested policies, as well as alternative policies, in terms of positive or negative impact on the City’s water supply and water quality.

Mr. Benson reported that the Committee previously decided to become more involved in the Plan Santa Barbara process to focus on “big picture” policies, and that the Watershed Action Plans will be developed later as implementation documents.

Public Comment:

Mr. Benson reported that an email regarding the General Plan Update was received from community member Anita Ward, and copies were distributed to Committee members.

Committee Discussion:

Committee members asked questions regarding how to best present issues to Planning staff; and, whether the EIR will include a cost benefit evaluation, particularly regarding sustainability.

Ms. Weiss reported that staff will take all comments provided into account, but that prioritizing issues would help in the decision-making process; and, that they will be undertaking an economic study to look at key assumptions and feasibility, particularly around encouraging businesses, affordable housing, and building heights, but that it will not be a complete cost benefit analysis.

Individual Committee members made the following comments on specific items in the draft table:

- CC17. Park, Recreation and Open Space Funding - provision for ongoing maintenance is critical for success.
- R8. Creek Setbacks – encourage pervious surfaces throughout the City, not just within creek side buffers; emphasize importance of riparian corridors.
- Mixed Use Development – Existing Conserve Resources Policy – add language to include reducing footprints and consumption on the whole where feasible.
- R10. Master Drainage Plan – encourage decentralized drainage systems, “earthworks”, to help water move slowly on each parcel and lessen the load on the larger drainage system.
- R20. On-Site Storage and Reuse – identify use of cisterns and gray water, retrofitting existing development to extent feasible; develop assistance in designing systems to encourage safe and functional use; discuss making gray water use legal; add incentives.
- LU6. Transfer of Development Rights – move toward transfer of mitigation responsibilities.
- LU9. Sustainable Neighborhood Plans – encourage recognition of connectivity between properties.
- CC16. Public Views – include creeks and riparian corridors; incorporate watersheds.
- CC17. Park, Recreation and Open Space Funding – add creeks, habitat, riparian corridors, watersheds.
- CC19. Park and Open Space Acquisition and Maintenance Funding – add creeks, habitat, riparian corridors, watersheds.

- Biological Resources – Existing Native Specimen Trees and Landscaping – remedy existing invasive or inappropriate plantings, especially concerning creek areas on public and private property.
- Committee members emphasized the idea of providing incentives to property owners, as well as being strict in enforcement programs.
- R19. Groundwater Banking – protect and recharge watersheds and groundwater basins wherever possible.

Committee members asked questions regarding the focus on “natural” storm water capture and treatment methods versus end of pipe treatment;

Mr. Wilson noted that non-natural storm drain networks and engineered systems are already in place.

Mr. Benson reported that the City has identified a broad range of storm water management and treatment BMPs in the recently completed Storm Water BMP Guidance Manual; and, that natural treatment methods are preferred but not required.

**Motion:**

Committee members Wilson/Weber to forward the table of issues prepared by staff, including individual and collective comments made by the Committee, to the Park and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission, and Planning Division.

**Vote:**

Unanimous voice vote.

**Committee Discussion:**

Ms. Weiss noted that the Planning Commission will meet on Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm in Council Chambers to discuss community input. Planning staff will be at the Park and Recreation Commission Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm. The Planning Commission will meet on Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am to receive public input, and will meet again on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> to deliberate. Staff is tentatively scheduled to present to City Council on Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. All meeting dates, reports, and additional information is available on line at [www.youplansb.org](http://www.youplansb.org).

**Break at 7:02pm.**

**Back to order at 7:05pm.**

**8b. Santa Barbara Golf Club Storm Water Management Project Final Design Plans, Estimated Costs, and Construction Schedule**

Recommendation:

That the Committee review and discuss final design plans and cost estimates for the Santa Barbara Golf Club Storm Water Management Project, and provide a recommendation to Council to authorize proceeding with Phase I construction.

Documents:

Staff Report – August 2008

Power Point Presentation – August 2008

Speakers:

George Thomson, Creeks Planner

Committee Questions:

Mr. Thomson noted that 16 contractors attended the bid walk, and that bids are due Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Benson noted that staff has applied for five grants and received \$20,000 from the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project for the Adams School portion of the project; and, that staff will continue to seek grant funding until project is complete.

Committee members asked questions regarding removal and replacement of trees; the use of a French drain versus natural drainage; how golfers will be kept off of new planting areas and who will maintain and replace plants; whether Golf management approves of the project; and, the permanence of the Adams School project.

Mr. Thomson reported that trees removed or displaced during the project will be replaced with suitable alternatives; that a French drain will be used in one location because natural drainage is not feasible due to topography of the site; that plants will be selected to be resilient to some trampling, and that the selected contractor will have a 90 day maintenance period for plants, then the Creeks Division will take over maintenance of habitat and water quality areas, and mow strips will be installed to allow Golf crews to go about regular maintenance; that the Golf Manager has approved the project; and, that Adams School has incorporated the project into their long term design plans, and that the Creeks Division has right of entry for up to 5 years for maintenance, then it becomes the school district's responsibility;

Mr. Jordan reminded Committee members that the eventual Measure B expense will likely be 100% of the project, and that it has the potential to

be another banner project like the Arroyo Burro Estuary and Mesa Creek Restoration.

Committee members asked questions regarding volume reductions lower in the watershed; whether staff has done water quality sampling to compare to after the project; whether signage will be included in the project to keep golfers from trampling plants; whether ditches will meander through the course or remain straight;

Mr. Thomson reported that the project includes several basins that will increase capacity, and will handle up to a 100 year storm event; that staff has taken water quality samples to compare to post construction data; that signage is not currently budgeted, but that staff is working on signage for preconstruction outreach; that meandering is constricted by play of golf, and that there will be step pools rather than lateral movement;

Mr. Weber suggested staff include flood control benefits of the project in the upcoming presentation to City Council.

**Motion:**

Committee members Jordan/Weber to recommend Council authorize proceeding with Phase I Construction, provided staff is satisfied with bids.

**Committee Discussion:**

Committee members asked whether contractors had an idea of the City engineer's cost projection for the project.

Mr. Thomson reported that the engineer's projection was included in the request for bids provided to contractors.

**Vote:**

Unanimous voice vote.

**Committee Disucssion:**

Ms. Longstreet expressed her appreciation for the project and the City's ability to work within itself to improve itself. She also noted that the golf course is becoming an Audubon site; that it is a wonderful opportunity for education of adults as well as children; and, that she is glad to see the project get started.

**Public Comment:**

No one wished to speak.

## ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Committee members Wilson/Weber to adjourn.

Mr. Moldaver adjourned the meeting at 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cameron Benson  
Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager